

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 01895 120533Z

21

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 OFA-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INT-05 FEA-01

/035 W

----- 108972

R 112300Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6434

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

USCINCSO

USNAVSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 1895

DEPT PASS NAVSEASYS COM AND COMMANDANT US COAST GUARD

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: TPHY, BH, HO, GT

SUBJECT: OIL SPILL IN BAHIA DE AMATIQUE

REF: GUATEMALA 1779

1. OIL NO LONGER LEAKING IN SINGNIFICANT QUANTITIES FROM  
SUNKEN BARGE. UNDERWATER INSPECTION INDICATES THAT  
OIL HAD BEEN LEAKING FROM IMPROPERLY CLOSED VENTS  
AND FROM TWO UNCOVERED MANHOLES IN FORWARD SECTION  
OF BARGE.

2. UNDERWATER INSPECTION ALSO REVEALED THAT BARGE  
IS STANDING ON ITS BOW, HAS BEEN QUOTE WALKING  
UNQUOTE FROM ITS ORIGINAL POSITION ABOUT EIGHT MILES  
OFF PUNTA MANABIQUE AND IS NOW IN CENTER OF SHIPPING  
CHANNEL ONLY FOUR MILES OFF THE POINT. NO ATTEMPT  
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YET MADE TO RAISE BARGE. GUATEMALAN NAVY PATROL

BOATS ON SITE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS DAY TO PREVENT ANY COLLISION.

3. GUATEMALAN NAVY PERSONNEL CONTINUING CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS. WINDS SHIFTS AND HIGH SEAS EARLIER IN WEEK HAVE SPREAD SURFACE OIL INTO HONDURAN WATERS. SHELL OIL COMPANY SALVAGE AND CLEAN-UP PERSONNEL NOW IN PUERTO BARRIOS AND SHELL VENEZUELA OFFICIAL HAS STATED TO PRESS THAT COMPANY IS ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLEANING UP THE SPILL.

4. THERE IS ALREADY EVIDENCE OF A FISHKILL AND CONTAMINATION OF THE SHORELINE WITHIN THE BAY. DETERMINATION OF FULL EXTENT OF ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR SOME WEEKS OR PERHAPS LONGER.

5. NO FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM GOG HAS YET BEEN PRESENTED TO AMBASSADOR. SHELL HAS NOW ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY AND BROUGHT IN MATERIEL AND EXPERIENCED ADVISORS. EMBASSY NO LONGER EXPECTS GOG TO ASK FOR ANY EQUIPMENT BUT THERE STILL REMAINS POSSIBILITY THAT SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MAY BE REQUESTED TO JUDGE EXTENT OF ECOLOGICAL IMPACT.  
MELOY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WATER POLLUTION, REPORTS, OIL SPILLS, SHIP ACCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975GUATEM01895  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750128-0332  
**From:** GUATEMALA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750459/aaaaccmm.tel  
**Line Count:** 86  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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